

## ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a ring binder mechanism for binding the sheets of loose leaves. The mechanism comprises an elongated spring plate that extends longitudinally and, in profile, has a shallow U-shaped configuration and opposite edges which extend substantially toward each other; two parallel elongate hinge plates supported by said spring plate for pivotal toggle motion relative to the spring plate about a central hinge line, which are mounted in parallel and retained by the opposite edges of the spring plate; and a plurality of rings for claspingsaid sheets of loose leaves, Each of the rings comprises a pair of half ring elements of circular cross-section which are mounted on said hinge plates, with one half ring element of each pair being attached to one of the hinge plates and the other half ring element of the pair attached to the other hinge plate, with the two half ring elements of each pair in substantial alignment.